



## TUBERCULOSIS INFORMATION

### - TB Infection vs. TB Disease

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease that is spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, the kidneys, or the spine. TB germs are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs or sneezes. When a person inhales air that contains TB germs, he or she may become infected. People with TB infection do not feel sick and do not have any symptoms. However, they may develop TB disease at some time in the future.

The general symptoms of TB disease include feeling sick or weak, weight loss, fever, and night sweats. The symptoms of TB of the lungs include coughing, chest pain, and coughing up blood. Other symptoms depend on the part of the body that is affected. Persons with TB disease often have a positive culture for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. These persons are given therapy to cure the disease.

In contrast, persons with TB infection usually have a positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test, but they do not have signs and symptoms of TB disease, and they are not infectious. These persons may be given preventive therapy to prevent the infection from progressing to disease.



## PUBLIC COMMENT - TUBERCULOSIS FAX SYSTEM

For a limited time CDC is accepting public comment on the information services you used. We are particularly interested in the areas listed below. If you wish to comment, you may:

**FAX this sheet with your comments to: CDC-VIS/FAX (404) 639-1733, or**

Mail to: CDC, IRMO MS C-15, 1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30333

1. You are

- ☐ health care professional  
☐ other

2. Fax sheet(s) you received:

- ☐ Tuberculosis (TB): General Information  
☐ TB Infection vs. TB Disease  
☐ Diagnosis of TB Infection (Tuberculin Skin Test) and TB Disease  
☐ Treatment of TB Infection (Preventive Therapy)  
☐ Treatment of TB Disease  
☐ Management of Persons Exposed to Multidrug-Resistant TB  
☐ BCG Vaccine  
☐ Infection Control  
☐ Screening for TB  
☐ TB Morbidity in the United States  
☐ Tuberculosis Educational Materials Order Form

3. Reason you requested fax sheet:

- ☐ for general information on topic  
☐ to answer specific question

If you had a specific question, please describe it:

4. The information met your needs.

- ☐ yes  
☐ no  
☐ partially

If you answered no or partially, please describe your unmet needs:

5. Suggestions for additional information sheets or for improving the system: